

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05598 141602Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T LONDON 05598

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: MBFR: BRITISH THOUGHTS ON MBFR AND ON

POSSIBLE NATO SUMMIT

REF: (A) LONDON 4802 (B) STATE 81545 (NOTAL)

1. PM/DCA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FLOWEREE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON CRISPIN TICKELL AND TERENCE WOOD OF FCO APRIL 11. WE DISCUSSED TICKELL'S "IDEA" (REF. A) OF REMOVING ALLIED DEMANDS FOR CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIET TANKS AND ASKING FOR COMMON CEILING AND CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIET THEATER NUCLEAR SYSTEMS AS QUID PRO QUO FOR OPTION III. WE MADE POINTS IN REF. B. EMPHASIZING THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TANKS. WE ALSO NOTED U.S. CONCERN THAT ALLIED DEMAND FOR CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIET NUCLEAR SYSTEMS MIGHT RESULT IN SOVIET DEMAND FOR ALLIED TANK CONSTRAINTS.

2. TICKELL SAID HIS IDEA IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT / CHIEF ALLIED OBJECTIVE IN DEPLOYMENT OF OPTION III IS TO GAIN EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF COMMON CEILING. TICKELL NOTED THAT CURRENT ALLIED POSITION CALLS FOR (1) COMMON CEILING AND (2) WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TANK ARMY. IT SEEMS, TICKELL SAID, THAT U.S. EMPHASIZES LATTER TO NEGLECT OF FOR-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 05598 141602Z

MER; U.S. HARDLY MENTIONS COMMON CEILING AS AN OBJECTIVE.

UK MBFR COMMUNITY IS AWAITING U.S. "VIEWS" PAPER. ONE OF MAJOR UK CONCERNS WILL BE STRESS PLACED IN PAPER ON COMMON CEILING.

3. TURNING TO POSSIBLE NATO SUMMIT, TICKELL SAID HE IS FLOATING SUGGESTION IN HMG THAT NATO MAY MEETING HAVE DAY ONE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (WITH THAT NIGHT DEVOTED TO DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE) WITH DAY TWO AT SUMMIT. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SUMMIT PORTION OF MEETING WOULD BE TO RATIFY COMMUNIQUE BUT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO DISCUSS ANY OTHER TOPICS ON THEIR MINDS. TICKELL HOPED EMPHASIS IN SUMMIT COULD BE STEERED AWAY FROM CSCE. OPTION III MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT SUMMIT.

SPIERS

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